

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, April 11, 1881, with transcript

Letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his Father. Volta Laboratory, 1221 Connecticut Ave., Washington, D. C., April 11th, 1881. Dear Papa:

Enclosed list of queries not in my line. About the only man in America who could answer the questions is Prof. Morton — President of the Institute of Technology — Hoboken, New Jersey.

Repairs of house now under way. Page thinks impossible to have all ready before middle of May.

Please write to Mrs. O'Neal. Busy night and day over paper for National Academy to be read next Tuesday — wish you were here to polish — will send manuscript copy which you may be able to return before meeting — but if practicable will have paper in type this week so as to send printed proofs to scientific papers here and in Europe.

Been making great discoveries. Most fortunate Chester is here as our investigations have taken a chemical turn. We have baptized our new Laboratory baby “The Spectrophone” an instrument for spectrum analysis by means of sound. It is a combination of the Photophone with a Spectroscope.

With much love.

Your affectionate son, Alec. Prof. A. M. Bell, Brantford, Ontario.